

86. *Wilson and Evans's 'Aves Hawaiienses.'*

[*Aves Hawaiienses*: the Birds of the Sandwich Islands. By Scott B. Wilson, F.Z.S., assisted by A. H. Evans, M.A., F.Z.S. Part IV., January 1893.* 4to. London: R. H. Porter.]

We are much pleased to welcome the fourth part of the '*Aves Hawaiienses*,' and trust that the fifth and concluding part will quickly follow. Messrs. Wilson and Evans cannot expect to render their account of the birds of this highly interesting "Subregion" perfect, as we know that the fertile avifauna of the Sandwich Islands is by no means yet exhausted. But they will at all events have established a solid base for future workers, and have given us, in an excellently illustrated volume, sufficient materials to form accurate views as to the general character of the Hawaiian Avifauna.

The following species are figured in this part:—

Corvus tropicus, *Chloridops kona*, *Ciridops anna*, *Himatione mana*, *Bernicla sandvicensis*, *Anas wyvilliana*, *Gallinula sandvicensis*, *Oceanodroma cryptoleucura*, *Puffinus cuneatus*.

XLII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

THE following letters, addressed to the Editor, have been received:—

SIR,—I wish, with your kind permission, to record in your next issue the recent occurrence of a very rare visitor in this country, namely the Bohemian Waxwing (*Ampelis garrula*), a fine specimen of which was shot near Ballinderry, Co. Antrim, on 22nd February last. The bird has occurred in this locality before (*vide* Thompson, Watters, and others), but I have met with no *recent* record whatever of its appearance.

Croft House, Holywood,
Co. Down, 7th March, 1893.

Yours &c.,
R. LLOYD PATTERSON.

SIR,—The method of snaring Birds of Paradise in the interior of the Port Moresby district has been correctly described by Mr. Thomson, as cited in the last number of '*The Ibis*' (above, p. 274). The "dancing-tree" there

* For notice of Part III. see *Ibis*, 1892, p. 575.

mentioned corresponds with the "spel-tree" of the Capercaillie, and such trees are well known to the native bird-catchers of New Guinea. They are frequented by the males during the pairing-season, in order to attract the hens by showing off their gorgeous plumage in numerous elegant motions towards one another, as described by Mr. Thomson (*l. c.*). These "plays of love" have also been described by the Rev. James Chalmers in his interesting 'Work and Adventures in New Guinea, 1877 to 1885'*. As regards the mode of catching Birds of Paradise we find (*op. cit.* p. 246) the following notes:—"The inland natives kill them with arrows; sometimes they catch them with gum smeared over the branches of the tree. The natives know their favourite resorts, and many are thus snared."

When in New Guinea I became acquainted only with the latter method of capture, which is used also by the natives of Milne Bay, and to prevent error it is worth while to mention that the inland natives *do not shoot* Birds of Paradise with arrows. These weapons or hunting implements have only a very limited use in New Guinea. Bows and arrows are unknown to the natives inland of Port Moresby, and to the tribes on the Astrolabe and Owen Stanley Mountains. The drawing in Chalmers's work (*op. cit.* p. 246), "Shooting Birds of Paradise," which shows a native hidden under a shelter of leaves on a tree aiming at these birds, is therefore quite misleading, and does not refer to New Guinea, but to the Aroo Islands. As has already been mentioned by me†, this illustration is merely a book-maker's invention, having been copied from Wallace's 'Travels' (frontispiece to vol. ii. p. 364, German edition). The birds there figured are also clearly of the Aroo-Island species—*Paradisea apoda*, and not *P. raggiana*, which is peculiar to the south-eastern portion of New Guinea.

Delmenhorst (near Bremen),
March 1893.

Yours &c.,
DR. OTTO FINSCH.

* London, 1885.

† Annalen d. k.-k. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums, Bd. iii. Heft 4. p. 334 (120) (1888) (note).

SIR,—I dare say the following fact will interest you. Mr. Hudson, in the 'Argentine Ornithology' (vol. ii. p. 115), says he believes there are *two* species of Roseate Spoonbills: one, the typical *Ajaja rosea*, with bare head, excrescences on the beak, yellow tail, crimson wing-marks, and breast-tuft; and a second one with feathered head, pale-coloured plumage, smooth bill, rose-coloured tail, and no breast-tuft.

Mr. Hudson's opinion was that the true *A. rosea* has all its characteristic marks &c. from its youth up, and that the pale-coloured birds do not undergo any change.

I can now prove that these pale-coloured birds are *not* a distinct species, but are simply immature specimens of the bright-coloured *Ajaja rosea*.

In June 1889 the Zoological Garden of Amsterdam acquired two Spoonbills answering exactly the description that Mr. Hudson gives of his pale-coloured species, as he calls it.

I have observed these birds ever since their arrival; they did not vary much until March of the present year (1893), when both birds completely changed their plumage into that of typical *A. rosea*. The heads have become bare, the excrescences on the beak have appeared, the tails are yellow, and the bright wing-spots and the breast-tuft are also present.

The fact that these birds have kept their immature plumage for four years sufficiently explains why on the pampas bright-coloured mature birds are comparatively rare. The immature bird Mr. Hudson shot must have been, not a bird just out of the nest, but a bird just acquiring the characters of the adult. This would explain the excrescences on the bill being soft.

The pale-coloured bird of Mr. Hudson's friend, which did not change for seven years, was probably not kept under favourable circumstances as to its food. This may have hindered its acquiring the fully adult plumage.

So, for instance, I have observed that specimens of *Tantalus ibis* fed on meat instead of fish never acquire their bright red wing-feathers. Perhaps also the number of years the bird was kept had not been accurately noted.

There remains still the different structure of the trachea, but I do not see why that should not also acquire its new form only when the bird is fully adult.

I am,

's Graveland, Hilversum,
Holland, April 1893.

Yours &c.,

F. E. BLAAUW.

SIR,—In some "Oological Notes" by Mr. Alfred North (Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. W. (2) vii. pp. 393-398, 1892), the author makes remarks on the eggs of *Cyanorhamphus rayneri*, Gr., from Norfolk Island, and, after having alluded to my identification of this bird with *C. cooki* (Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xx. p. 585; see also Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (6) vii. p. 64), comes to the following conclusion:—"If *C. rayneri* of Norfolk Island is the same as *C. cooki* of New Zealand, as stated by Count Salvadori, I should not be surprised to find, upon the examination of a large series of skins of the Red-fronted Parrakeet of Norfolk Island, that it is only an occasional, and by no means constant, variety of *C. novæ-zealandiæ*, not meriting even subspecific distinction."

Mr. North, who does not seem to have ever seen a *Cyanorhamphus* from Norfolk Island, is mistaken as regards my admitting that the type of *C. cooki* ever came from New Zealand. In fact, as the "habitat" of this species (*op. cit.* p. 585) I have given "Norfolk Island" only. The locality "New Zealand" to specimen *a* (the type of *Platycercus cooki*) is included between square brackets, which means that, according to my belief, it is wrong. In fact, the alleged locality is not supported by any reliable authority, the specimen having belonged to the old "Bullock Collection." In conclusion I may say that I am quite persuaded that the type of *C. cooki* (like the type of *C. rayneri*) is a specimen from Norfolk Island, which has been wrongly labelled "New Zealand," and that *C. cooki* is a perfectly distinct species, quite different from *C. novæ-zealandiæ*.

If the Australian and New-Zealandian naturalists will take the trouble to bring together specimens of the genus *Cyano-*

rhamphus from the different islands, they will find that they belong to insular forms perfectly distinct from one another.

I take this opportunity also to answer some remarks on the *Cyanorhamphus* from Antipodes Island, made by Mr. H. O. Forbes in the last number of 'The Ibis' (p. 280). Whether this bird, which no doubt is *C. hochstetteri*, Reischek, is different, as I am inclined to believe, or not from *C. erythrotis* from the Macquarie Islands, is a question which must be left *sub judice* till we have a good series of specimens from both localities to be compared together. Till then I think it safer to consider the Antipodes-Island bird distinct, more especially as, besides some slight differences, *C. hochstetteri* and *C. erythrotis* have different habitats, a fact which warns us to be very cautious before we identify birds from different islands. In this particular case caution is the more necessary because the only available specimen from Antipodes Island (brought home by Mr. H. O. Forbes, and now in the British Museum) is imperfect and without a tail.

I am, Sir,

Zoological Museum, Turin,
April 21st, 1893.

Yours &c.,
T. SALVADORI.

SIR,—I should like to correspond with residents in this country who are interested in the subject of the migration of various birds. There are certainly many routes taken, but the greater part of these routes are indefinable, as the inland being so very uniform in character, the migrants, as a rule, travel direct, instead of following rivers or valleys. Why some birds, such as *Alectrurus risorius*, *Tenioptera dominicana*, and *Myiotheretes rufiventris*, should only be found migrating due south-east and north-west, and breeding (except the last) 150 miles south and 100 miles west of Buenos Aires, and never appearing nearer to the capital, except as stragglers *en route*, is very puzzling. *Agelæus flavus* is also only found, though resident, beyond this same limit. In fact, one could draw a line beyond which certain species are never found, so that their occurrence would tell the traveller in which part of the country he was *not*, without other guides.

List of the commonest Migrants at Estancia Sta. Elena.

NAME.	FROM.	TO	DIRECTION.	ROUTE.
<i>Progne chalybea</i>	Argentina	Brazil	S. to N.	No special route.
<i>Parula pitiaiyumi</i>	Buenos Aires (town) . .	Brazil	S. to N.	Along river-banks.
<i>Tringa maculata</i>	Argentina	North America	S. to N.	No special route?
<i>Ægialitis falklandica</i>	Patagonia	Argentina	S. to N.	No special route.
<i>Tanagra bonariensis</i>	Brazil	Buenos Aires (town) . .	N. to S.	Along river Paraná.
<i>Myiotheretes rufiventris</i> . .	Patagonia	Argentina (except within 100 miles radius of Buenos Aires, town).	S. to N. & N.W. . .	No special route?
<i>Alectrurus risorius</i>	S. & S.E. Argentina . .	Brazil and Paraguay, not passing near Buenos Aires (town).	S.E. to N. & N.W.	Probably by open ground.
<i>Columba picazuro</i>	Western Argentina . . .	A radius of 100 miles round Buenos Aires (town).	W. to E.	No special route.

I find that the localities mentioned in 'Argentine Ornithology' are often very misleading, such as, for example, "Buenos Aires." If this means the province, it is far too broad; if the town, it should be so stated, and also whether the species is a "straggler," a "regular visitor," or a "resident." For example, *Agelaius flavus*, *Alectrurus risorius*, and a great many other species are absolutely unknown close to the town of Buenos Aires, but common in the west of the province of the same name. Again, there are birds that pass by the river to the neighbourhood of Buenos Aires (town), such as *Tanagra bonariensis*, which are only known there, and never seen further south.

I give (see p. 468) a short list of a few of the commonest migrants which pass in March and April, according to my observations, and their resorts, so far as I can ascertain them from 'Argentine Ornithology.'

In the stream of migrants which arrived here on March 5th last, passing northwards, were some four hundred individuals of the following species, which also all departed together:—*Mimus triurus*, *Troglodytes furvus*, *Poospiza torquata*, *Catamenia analis*, *Tenioptera coronata*, *Lichenops perspicillatus*, *Elainea albiceps*, *Pyrocephalus rubineus*, *Myiarchus ferox*, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, *Milvulus tyrannus*, *Phytotoma rutila*, *Synallaxis albens*, *S. hudsoni*, and *Coccyzus melanocoryphus*.

I am, Sir,

Yours &c.,

A. H. HOLLAND.

Estancia Sta. Elena, Media Luna,
Soler-F. C. al Pacifico,
Argentine Republic, March 25th, 1893.

SIR,—Among some bird-skins obtained several years ago from Formosa, which I have not hitherto been able to examine carefully, I find a Bulbul which appears to be undescribed. In its olive-yellow wings and tail it much resembles *Pycnonotus sinensis* and *P. hainanus*, but differs from them in its greyer back and in the absence of yellow streaks both on back and lower parts. Its head, with plain black cap, black moustache, and scarlet spot at the gape, is

very like that of *P. xanthorrhous* but for the light ear-coverts. There is only a single example, undated and unsexed, which may be described as follows:—

PYCNONOTUS TAIVANUS, sp. nov.

Crown of head and nape black; lores and ear-coverts silvery buffish white; throat white; moustache black, with a small red spot at the base of the lower mandible. Hind neck light earthy brown; back, scapulars, lesser wing-coverts, and rump dull ashy brown, very lightly washed with olive. Greater coverts, remiges, and rectrices dark brown, washed externally with bright olive-yellow. Under surface buffish white, washed on flanks and thighs with ashy brown; under tail-coverts edged with olive. Bill black. Legs and feet deep brown (in skin). Length apparently $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches, wing 3.4, tail 3.3.

Two years ago my collector shot for me near Ichang three specimens of a *Dicæum* (♂ ♂ ♀) in which the upper parts of the male are of so much a deeper blue than in my specimens of *D. ignipectus* from South China that it would appear to be worthy of specific rank. The females I am unable to distinguish. I propose to name this species

DICÆUM CYANONOTUM, sp. nov.

Similar to *D. ignipectus*, but with the upper surface deep steel-blue instead of steel-green; the lesser wing-coverts and rump are greenish. The pale olive edgings to the feathers of back and rump in *D. ignipectus* are wanting, also the olive edgings to the secondaries. The chest-spot is more orange, less crimson.

I am, Sir,

Kiukiang,
April 20th, 1893.

Yours &c.,
F. W. STYAN.

The Crocodile and its Bird.—The 'Saturday Review' of May 6th last contains an article on Crocodile-birds, based on Mr. J. M. Cook's letter in our last number (above, p. 275). In reference to the Editorial remark that the story in question "had not been confirmed by eye-witness since the days

of Herodotus," the Saturday Reviewer writes as follows:—"No doubt, until Mr. Cook made his observation, the story had not 'been confirmed by recent observations'; but Giovanni Leone, perhaps better known as Leo Africanus, an author and traveller, who lived and wrote in the latter part of the fifteenth and the early part of the sixteenth century—*i. e.* at least 1300 years after Ælian—and whose accounts of what he saw are singularly devoid of fable, tells the story in a manner which makes it hard to believe that he was not relating facts which actually came under his own observation. He tells us—we quote from the French translation of his '*Description of Africa*,' published in 1556—that he was on the Nile, '*distant de Caire environ quatre cens mille,*' when he saw several crocodiles upon some little islands in the middle of the river, '*qui estoient étendus au Soleil, les gueules bées; dans lesquelles aucuns oysillons de blanc panage, & grandeur d'une grive, entroyent dedās, là ou ayans sejourné quelque espace de temps s'en retournoyent, dressans leur vol ailleurs. Dont estāt curieus d'entendre la raison de cela, je m'en enquis, & me fut dit, qu' entre les dens du crocodile demeurent quelques filés de chair, ou poisson pendans; lesquels venans à se putrifier, se convertissent en vers, qui les molestent aucunement, & estans aperceus remuer par ces petits oyseaus volās, viennent à entrer dans la gueule pour les māger, ce que ayans fait, crocodile ingrat tâche à les engloutir, mais se sentant piquée au palais d'une dure & peignante épine (que l'oyseau a sur le sommet de la tête) il est cotraint de desserrer, donnant lieu à la fuitte de l'oyseau, & avenāt q̃ j'en puisse recouvrer un, je raconteray cette histoire plus surement, & à la verité.*" Again, Paul Lucas, who wrote in 1719, though by no means an exact author or worthy to be too implicitly believed, distinctly says that he saw close to his boat some birds 'like a Lapwing, and near it in bigness,' which went 'into the crocodiles' mouths or throats, . . . and after they had stayed a little while the crocodiles shut their mouths, and opened them again soon after to let them go out.' He was told by the people that the birds in question 'feed themselves

on what remains between this animal's teeth by picking them, and as they have a kind of spur or very sharp thorn in the tops of their wings, they prick the crocodile, and torment him when he has shut his mouth, till he opens it again, and lets them out; and thus they secure themselves from the danger they were in." And he adds the suggestion that "likely these are the birds which Pliny calls *Trochilos*."

Anniversary Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union, 1893.—The Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union was held at the rooms of the Zoological Society of London, 3 Hanover Square, on Wednesday, the 3rd of May, at 6 P.M. In the absence of The President, Mr. PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., was in the Chair. The Minutes of the last Annual Meeting having been read and confirmed, the Report of the Committee was read. It stated that two Ordinary Members (Col. J. Biddulph and Mr. A. I. Muntz) had withdrawn, and two (Mr. W. Davison and Mr. G. M. Slaughter) had died since the last Anniversary.

The number of the Members of the Union at the close of 1892 was 261, consisting of 231 Ordinary, 1 Extra-ordinary, 9 Honorary, and 20 Foreign Members. There were 18 Candidates for the Ordinary Membership, and 1 for the Honorary Membership, now to be balloted for.

The accounts for the year 1891 were then presented by the Secretary, and approved by the Meeting.

The following Ordinary Members were balloted for and declared to be duly elected:—

Major Ernest L. S. Anne, Blenkinsopp Castle, Greenhead, Carlisle.

Ernest W. H. Blagg, Greenhill, Cheadle, Staffordshire.

George Bolam, F.Z.S., Castlegate, Berwick-on-Tweed.

W. E. de Winton, Graftonbury, Hereford; and 38 Great Russell Street, W.C.

Ernst Hartert, The Museum, Tring, Herts.

William Hartmann, Tangley Mere, Chilworth, Surrey.

Charles Hose, F.Z.S., Baram, Sarawak, Borneo.

William Henry Hudson, C.M.Z.S., Tower House, St. Luke's Road, Westbourne Park, W.

Frederick Lewis, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Ratnapura, Ceylon.

William H. Mullens, M.A., F.Z.S., Westfield Place, near Battle, Sussex.

Thomas Digby Pigott, C.B., 5 Ovington Gardens, S.W.

W. P. Pycraft, University Museum, Oxford.

Percy Rendall, M.D., F.Z.S., Eureka City, South African Republic.

The Hon. L. Walter Rothschild, F.Z.S., Tring Park, Tring, Herts.

Samuel S. Stanley, 3 Regent Grove, Leamington, Warwickshire.

Charles Stonham, F.R.C.S., F.Z.S., 4 Harley Street, Cavendish Square, W.

Dixon L. Thorpe, 41 Aglionby Street, Carlisle.

Aubyn B. R. Trevor-Battye, F.Z.S., St. Margaret's Mansions, 51 Victoria Street, S.W.

Dr. Anton Reichenow, C.M.Z.S., of Berlin, was also balloted for and elected an Honorary Member.

The outgoing President and Secretary were then re-elected, and Mr. Howard Saunders was chosen into the Committee in the place of Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, who retired by rotation.

The Officers for the year 1893-94 are therefore as follows:—

President.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD LILFORD.

Secretary.

F. D. GODMAN, Esq., F.R.S.

Editor.

P. L. SCLATER, Esq., M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.

Committee.

HENRY SEEBOHM, Esq.

OSBERT SALVIN, Esq., M.A., F.R.S.

HOWARD SAUNDERS, Esq.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting adjourned.

The Annual Dinner, subsequently held at Limmer's Hotel, was attended by 32 Members and guests.

Parus colletti, STEJNEGER.—In his 'Mindre Meddelelser vedrørende Norges Fuglefauna i Aarene 1881-1892' (now being printed), of which a set of the sheets has been forwarded to us, Prof. Collett makes (pp. 34, 35) the following remarks (which have been kindly translated for us by Mr. A. Hencage Cocks) on "*Parus colletti*," a "species" instituted by Dr. Stejneger in 1888, as being the representative of *Parus borealis* in Western Scandinavia:—

"In the Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. 1888, p. 71, Dr. Stejneger has sought to maintain that *Parus borealis* makes its appearance in Scandinavia in two forms—a western form, which is stated in the main to inhabit Norway, and the typical form, which is more eastern and inhabits generally Sweden.

"The western form, of which Dr. Stejneger had a pair of examples before him, shot near Bergen in June and August 1887, differs, he says, from the eastern, of which he has six examples, shot in the winter months in Sweden, chiefly in the colour of the hood and of the edge of the secondaries, a difference which he considers as constant, and so important that he sets up the western form as a peculiar species under the name of *P. colletti*, by the side of the typical (eastern) *P. borealis*.

"The diagnosis of the two species is given as follows (p. 74):—

	<i>Parus colletti</i> .	<i>Parus borealis</i> .
Top of head and nape	pure black, without gloss.	brownish black*.
Back	smoke-grey.	pale buffy grey.
Outer margins of secondaries	like the back, scarcely lighter.	whitish.
Under tail-coverts	smoke-grey, like the back.	whitish.

* [In the original diagnosis the colour of the hood in the two forms is exchanged, which is obviously a misprint. Thus it is found (at the foot of p. 74) stated:—

"In the Norwegian birds (*P. colletti*) the top of the head is deep black against brownish black in those from Sweden."

Professor Collett has himself let slip an obvious misprint in copying the English diagnosis, "hand" being printed instead of "head."—A. H. C.

“In endeavouring to decide the question about these two forms, I have examined the greater part of the material of *P. borealis* which is at the present time preserved in the different museums of the country. The University Museum* possesses in all 39 examples, of which 26 are from the most southerly parts of Norway (the districts about Christiania, Drammen, Hamar, and Dovre), 3 from the west coast of the country (Söndfjord, in Bergen diocese), 2 from Finmarken (Alten, Varanger), besides 8 from Mid-Sweden (Upsala).

“Among all these examples, which come from the most easterly, the most northerly, the most westerly, and the most southerly portions of Scandinavia, I have not been able to detect the slightest *constant* difference.

“The greyish-white margins of the secondaries may, it is true, vary somewhat in breadth and in purity of colour, just as the sides of the belly may be in some individuals more reddish grey, in others (at the same time of year and locality) of a purer white. Examples obtained in summer have, as a rule, whiter abdomens, but somewhat narrower (more worn) edges to the webs of the secondaries, than winter-killed specimens. In the young in nestling-plumage (Boskøp in Alten, July 22, 1880; Hamar, July 4, 1889; Gausdal, July 24, 1889; Jönsæt, July 17, 1890) these edges are brownish grey, and not whitish grey, and these examples come perhaps nearest the two examples of his *P. colletti* described by Dr. Stejneger†. But any constant difference between the individuals from these widely separated parts of the country does not exist.

“*P. colletti* must therefore, according to my judgment, be considered as founded on individual variations of *P. borealis*, which may make their appearance anywhere amongst the normal individuals.”

Bailly's '*Ornithologie de la Savoie*.'—It should be remem-

* Christiania.

† Which, however, are expressly stated to have been old individuals, not young ones.

bered that Bailly, in his 'Ornithologie de la Savoie' (Paris, 1853-55), has given to a few well-known species new names, which have not been referred to in the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum.' As it may happen that some ornithologists, not finding these terms in this standard work, may think themselves at liberty to use them for other species, I think it advisable to point them out to the readers of 'The Ibis.' They are as follows:—

Aquila fluvialis, Bailly, Orn. de la Savoie, i. p. 104 (1853) (= *Pandion haliaëtus*).

Hirundo sociabilis, Bailly, op. cit. i. p. 268 (= *Chelidon urbica*).

Lanius ruficapillus, Bailly, op. cit. ii. p. 32 (= *L. auriculatus*).

Garrulus glandivorus, Bailly, op. cit. ii. p. 118 (= *G. glandarius*).—T. SALVADORI.

Tristram's Grakle in Captivity.—Lord Lilford early in January last added to his living collection an example of Tristram's Grakle (*Amydrus tristrami*), figured in Gould's 'Birds of Asia,' vol. v. pl. 45, the Palestine species of this interesting group, which was discovered by Canon Tristram in the Gorge of the Kedron in 1858, but which had not previously been seen in captivity. This bird is still alive and well, and in general habits, Lord Lilford tells us, resembles the Mynahs very closely, except that it will not bathe. It exceedingly enjoys being "sprayed" with water. Lord Lilford hopes to receive more of these birds from his correspondent in Palestine during the summer.

This bird is evidently a female; her note is a frequently-repeated, monotonous, and somewhat harsh cry, with a certain indication of powerful vocal organs.

Great Bustards in the Zoological Society's Gardens.—The hen of the pair of Great Bustards (*Otis tarda*) which have been for some time in the Zoological Society's Gardens has made

a nest and commenced sitting on two eggs, this being, so far as is known, the first instance of the Great Bustard, which is notoriously a shy bird, breeding in captivity. The cock appears to take no part in the duties of incubation.—P. L. S., *June 13th, 1893.*

Ornithologists on their Travels.—We are pleased to be able to announce that arrangements have been made for Mr. R. Lydekker to visit the museums of the Argentine Republic this autumn, in order to examine the extraordinary series of fossil bird-bones which have lately been discovered there. In the preface to 'The Ibis' for 1892 we expressed a hope that it would be found possible to obtain the judgment of an experienced palæontologist upon these specimens. No one in England is more qualified for the purpose than the author of the recently-published 'Catalogue of Fossil Birds in the British Museum,' and the Royal Society have done right well in granting the necessary expenditure on this object from their Donation Fund.

Mr. O. V. Aplin's return from his expedition to Uruguay is expected immediately. We hope to be able to give some account of his results in our next number.

As will be seen by the letter amongst our correspondence, Mr. A. H. Holland has not forgotten the birds in his new residence at Estancia Sta. Elena. We have just received from him a collection of skins, with accompanying field-notes, which will be published in our next number.

Mr. F. Withington, whose change of quarters we have already noted (above, p. 284), has now settled at Rancho Salispuedes, near Tuxpan, in Mexico, and hopes to be able to commence a collection of birds very shortly.

Mr. Charles Hose, with whose successful ornithological explorations in Northern Borneo all readers of 'The Ibis' are well acquainted, is now returning to his residency at Claude Town, on the Baram River, where he will not fail to continue the researches which have already made his name

famous in the ranks of ornithological collectors and observers. Mount Dulit is by no means yet exhausted, and Mounts Kalulong and Tamuduk still afford an ample field for Mr. Hose's exertions. Borneo is by no means worked out.

Mr. John Whitehead, we understand, is contemplating a new expedition to the East, and will start shortly; first, probably, for some of the less-known islands of the Philippine group, after which he will investigate certain portions of the Papuan Subregion, of which we at present know too little. Mr. Whitehead's great experience and previous success render it certain that he will employ his time well.

Dr. Percy Rendall has arrived at his new quarters, Eureka City, near Barberton, in the Transvaal. Birds he finds at present "very scarce," as they are "all moulting," so he is devoting himself to other natural objects for the present.

Obituary.—M. OLPHE-GALLIARD and Mr. W. R. DAVISON.

VICTOR AIME LÉON OLPHE-GALLIARD, a French ornithologist devoted to the study of the birds of his native country, died at Hendaye, Basses Pyrénées, on the 2nd of February last, at the age of 68 years. M. Olphe-Galliard is principally known as the author of an illustrated octavo work, entitled 'Contributions à la Faune Ornithologique de l'Europe occidentale,' which was issued at Bordeaux in 40 fasciculi from 1884 to 1892. He also published in 1891 a 'Catalogue des Oiseaux des environs de Lyon,' and was the first describer of the charming little Algerian bird, Moussier's Redstart (*Ruticilla moussieri*), from specimens obtained in the province of Oran by M. Moussier in 1846 (Ann. Sci. Phys. et Nat. de Lyon, sér. 2, iv. p. 101).

WILLIAM RUXTON DAVISON, F.Z.S., Curator of the Raffles Museum, Singapore, whose death took place at Singapore on the 25th of January last, belonged to a good family in the north of England. His father, having married a lady of somewhat inferior position, enlisted and went out to India

with his wife. Being a clever fellow, he was quickly taken out of the ranks, and rose to be an executive engineer in the Public Works Department in Burmah, where Davison himself and his sister (afterwards Mrs. Davidson) were born. After the father's early death, Davison's mother, a good, sensible, hard-working woman, settled at Ootacamund, in India, and, with the assistance of friends, started a boarding-house. Here Davison got a good education in "Pope's Academy," and at the age of sixteen was apprenticed to the analytical chemist employed in the Nilgiri Cinchona plantations. Some years later Dr. King, the Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens, Calcutta, on visiting the Cinchona plantations, discovered Davison's merits as an intelligent observer of animal-life, and recommended him to Mr. A. O. Hume, C.B. Mr. Hume engaged Davison as his collector, and, after a year's preparatory training at Simla, sent him every year for six or seven months to various parts of India to collect birds. Each year he returned with the results of his labours, which were carefully gone over by Mr. Hume, who by systematic cross-examination extracted from Davison all he had learnt and seen, for although Davison was a close observer and had a capital memory, he had not the gift of expressing himself very clearly, either on paper or in conversation. The excellent results obtained by these periodical excursions and collections are well known to ornithologists from various papers in 'Stray Feathers,' and from the splendid additions thus made to the great "Hume" collection of birds.

In 1883 Davison came to England for the only time in his life, and then returned to Ootacamund, whence he wrote to the Editor of this Journal in January 1886 (see 'Ibis,' 1886, p. 203). Shortly afterwards he married an English lady, and later on (at the end of 1887) accepted the post of Curator of the Raffles Museum, Singapore, which he continued to occupy until the time of his death. During this period, though often in weak health, he was in frequent communication with the Zoological Society of London, and

was of much service to them in superintending the packing and transmission from Singapore to England, in the autumn of 1889, of the only example of the Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) that has ever reached Europe alive.

Mr. Hume, to whom we are indebted for most of these particulars of Davison's life, speaks of him as having been a thorough gentleman, most upright and steady in all matters of business, but always rather delicate in health. His training as an analytical chemist had given him a nicety and delicacy of touch such as few men, and not many women, can boast of. The "make" of his bird-skins was excellent, as most ornithologists know. He was an accomplished linguist, and could speak Hindustani, Tamil, Burmese, and Malay fluently. Davison was always kind to the natives and managed them thoroughly well; the native shikaris and skinners who were sent with him by Mr. Hume usually became much attached to him and served him faithfully. In Davison we have lost before his time one of the most active and successful bird-collectors of the epoch.

So far as we know, Davison's published articles were only five in number, namely:—

- (1) A Revised List of the Birds of Tenasserim. By A. O. Hume and W. Davison. *Stray Feathers*, vi. p. 1 (1878).
- (2) Letter from, containing descriptions of *Trochalopteron cinnamomeum* and *Merula erythrotis*. *Ibis*, 1886, p. 203.
- (3) Notes on some Birds collected on the Nilghiris and in parts of Wynaad and Southern Mysore. *Stray Feathers*, x. p. 329 (1887).
- (4) Letter on the Birds of Travancore. *Ibis*, 1888, p. 146.
- (5) Descriptions of some new Species of Birds from the Eastern Coast of the Malayan Peninsula. *Ibis*, 1892, p. 99.

A good portrait of Davison will be found in the third volume of Oates's edition of Hume's 'Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds,' published in 1890.